by the Government regarding amendment to the Patents Act, 1970.

(c) and (d) The Government has set up an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Raja Ramanna, Member of Parliament, to advise Industry Minister on matters pertaining to Intellectual Property Rights and related issues.

Revival of M/s. Reyrolle Burn Ltd.

1239. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BIFR has sanctioned the revival scheme for M/s Reyrolle Burn Limited (now R.B.L. Ltd) a subsidiary of Burn Standard Ltd.;

(b) if so, the date of the sanctioned scheme;

(c) the date fo implementation of scheme by all concerned; and

(d) the present status of implementation vis-a-vis capital expenditure, nqn-plan loan and need based working capital by Government and the Bank?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) BIFR issued sanctioned scheme of RBL Ltd. on 16.10.97. BIFR modified the scheme on request of the Government of India on 4.5.1998. Administrative appoval for implementation of the scheme was issued on 29.5.98.

(d) As per the sanctioned scheme, Government has already released Rs. 248 Lakh during 1997-98 for capital expenditure, non-plan loan and working capital. United Bank of India is yet to implement the scheme.

Shifting of Patent Office to New Delhi

1240. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the patent office is being shifted from Calcutta to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been strong opposition to this move from several quarters including the employees and workers;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the West Bengal Government have also lodged strong opposition to this move; and

(e) if so, whether the Central Government are proposing to reconsider the issue and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Some references have been received against shifting of the Patent Office from Calcutta. The Government is taking steps for restructuring, steamlining, modernising, computerising and re-orienting the operations in the patent offices in the country with a view to providing better services to the scientific, industrial and research communities and the other users of the system.

उत्तर प्रदेश में विकास केन्द्र

1241. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश के लिए आठ विकास केन्द्र स्वीकृत किए हैं;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि इनमें से एक विकास केन्द्र पौड़ी गढ़वाल जिले में कोटद्वार नगर के निकट एक स्थान के लिए स्वीकृत किया गया है;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में कुछ लोगों के पहाड़-विरोधी रवैये के कारण इस केन्द्र का स्थान बदल दिए जाने का विचार है;

(घ) क्या केवल इसके कारण ही भारतीय औद्योगिक विकास बैंक ने इसे मंजूर नहीं किया है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो केन्द्र सरकार क्षेत्रीय विषमता फैलाने वाली योजनाओं के विरुद्ध क्या कार्रवाई कर रही है; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) जी, हां। केन्द्र सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य को आठ विकास केन्द्र आवंटित किये हैं, जिनमें से सात पहले ही अनुमोदित किये जा चुके हैं।

(ख) उक्त विकास केन्द्रों में से एक विकास केन्द्र जिला पौढ़ी-गढ़वाल में स्थापित किये जाने का प्रस्ताव है। राज्य सरकार से परियोजना रिपोर्ट की प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) से (च) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Foreign investment proposals for Kerala

1242. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government had requested for approval of foreign collaborations for any industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of applications pending for foreign investment in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) No proposal for foreign investment have been received from Government of Kerala.

(c) There are only two proposals pending for foreign investment in Kerala.

Industrial growth rate

1243. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial growth has further declined during recent months; if so, the month to month growth recorded since January compared to that during the corresponding months in 1997, 1996 and 1995; and

(b) the main reasons for the decline and the major items and sectors of industrial growth affected, indicating percentage decline in each case?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The overall month to month industrial growth rate recorded in the months of January, February and March 1998, 1997, 1996 and 1995 is furnished in the table given below:

Overall Growth Rates

Months	1995	1996	1997	1998
January	9.4	12.3	3.1	4.5
February	10.5	14.1	3.4	2.8
March	7.9	11.1	2.1	−0.7

(b) The deceleration in industrial growth is perceived to be the cumulative effect of many macro factors, which include, subdued export growth, slow down in investment and sluggishness in demand. The sectors and items which were adversely affected in 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97 are Capital Goods (−4.0%), commercial vehicles (−28.5%), sugar (−14.0%), steel (−0.8%), auto ancillary (−7.0%), newsprint(−5.8%), sewing machines (−9.8%), and leather and fur products (−0.8%).

Promotion of indigenous entrepreneurship

1244. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new industrial policy announced by the new regime is aimed at promoting indigenous entrepreneurship and providing level playing field to indigenous entrepreneur while promoting liberalisation; and